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Survey of Fort McMurray.



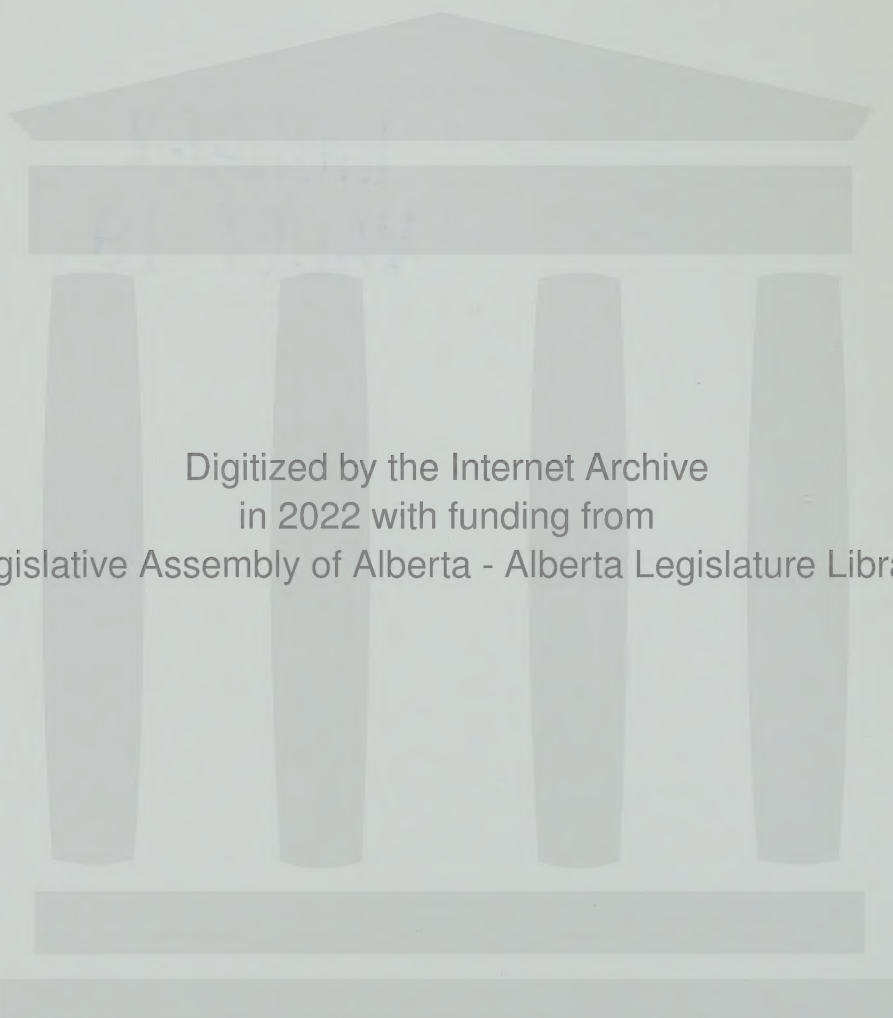
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**SURVEY
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FORT McMURRAY**

PUBLISHED BY THE
Alberta Government Publicity Bureau
Department of Industry and Tourism

GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



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Town of Fort McMurray

(Revised July, 1970)

1. LOCATION

Fort McMurray is located between the 56th and 57th parallel, approximately forty miles west of the Saskatchewan border and 274 road miles from Edmonton. The town is situated at the junction of the Clearwater and Athabasca Rivers.

2. WEATHER

Comparison with Edmonton and Calgary

	Temperature		Jan. Mean Daily		July Mean Daily	
	Lowest	Highest	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
Fort McMurray ..	-59	96	4	-16	76	48
Edmonton ----	-57	99	15	-2	74	52
Calgary -----	-49	97	24	4	75	49

3. PRECIPITATION

	Mean Annual Rain	Mean Annual Snowfall	Total Precipitation
Fort McMurray -----	11.85 in.	64 in.	16.85 in.
Edmonton -----	13.25 in.	54 in.	18.64 in.
Calgary -----	11.59 in.	59 in.	17.44 in.

4. FROST DATA

	Period yrs. Frost Data Collected	Mean Date		Frost Free Period		
		Last In Spring	First In Fall	Mean Days	Longest Days	Shortest Days
Fort McMurray ..	17 yrs.	June 19	Aug. 19	60	115	8
Edmonton ----	23 yrs.	May 18	Sept. 19	123	156	88
Calgary ----	30 yrs.	May 27	Sept. 11	106	154	42

According to weather authorities at the Fort McMurray airport there is only a 25% risk of frost on or after June 26, at the airport.

5. HISTORY

Because of its situation, Fort McMurray played an important role in the history and development of the north. Early explorers and fur traders using the routes to the north, of the Clearwater and Athabasca Rivers, passing by the site of Fort McMurray, were Peter Pond, Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser, and supply parties from Franklin's expeditions. In 1788 the North West Company established a trading post, which was across the Clearwater from the present site of Fort McMurray, later abandoned, and called it Fort of the Forks.

Almost 100 years later, in 1870, H. J. Moberly founded Fort McMurray on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company. He named the fort after an old friend, J. D. McMurray, who was a partner in the original North West Company. Building was started at the new fort in mid-May in a foot of snow; in the second year the entire settlement was destroyed by fire caused by a keg of gunpowder being set off by a mosquito smudge pot. Mr. Moberly and men rebuilt the fort, only to have it completely flooded out in 1875. The new fort had been established in order to help utilize the supply route up the Churchill River across the twelve mile Meythe Portage in Saskatchewan, down the Clearwater to its junction with the Athabasca River, and so to the north.

In the early 1920's the Alberta and Great Waterways Railroad (now Northern Alberta Railways) was built to Waterways, slightly southeast of McMurray, and all freight to the north was transferred from trains to barges at Waterways, which made it a bustling community during the summer months.

On May 6, 1947, Fort McMurray was incorporated as a village and on December 29, 1948, it was proclaimed a town.

6. LIVING ACCOMMODATION

Apartments

Lunar - 24 suite
 Hillside Manor - 30 suite
 Peter Pond (3 units) -
 72 suite
 Centennial Place - 8 suite
 Moberley Manor - 24 suite
 (under construction)

Private Single Residences

Serviced lots available with
 Central Mortgage and Housing
 Corp. loans.



A view of a portion of one of the main streets in the town.

7. ADMINISTRATION

Fort McMurray received "the new town status" on June 30, 1964. The town is presently governed by a seven man board; the chairman, four elected members, and two from the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Decisions of the governing board are carried out by the municipal employees; namely, a secretary-treasurer and his assistant; an inspection officer; recreation director; juvenile officer; social worker; five clerical staff; and fifteen on the outside staff.

8. FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is offered by a 24-man volunteer brigade operating two fire trucks. There are 80 hydrants and the fire mains are 6 and 8 inches. Operating costs of the department in 1969 was \$15,014.40.

9. TAX STRUCTURE

Presently, the town is allowed to borrow up to approximately 20% of its current assessment from the Provincial Government for capital projects. A sewer collection system is near completion; additional paving is in progress, and a swimming pool is proposed. One major capital project, completed in 1967, was the building of a dike at the junction of the Clearwater and Athabasca Rivers, to prevent floods which had been frequent in the town at breakup time.

The total revenue of the town in 1969 was \$1,105,905.14; \$629,314 of which was obtained by tax levy; \$291,357.11 from government grants; and the balance from rentals, licenses, service charges and miscellaneous. 1969 showed a revenue surplus of \$70,904.38 after yearly expenditures. Capital and loan fund expenditures were \$141,131.45.



Many fine homes line the attractively designed streets of the town.

Building permit values in given years were as follows:

1966 - \$2,794,653.00; 1967 - \$5,728,783.99; 1968 - \$3,250,444.69;
1969 - \$1,032,955.00. To April 15, 1970, permit figures were \$317,630.00.

Current mill rate is 75; 43 mills for school purposes and 6.5 mills for hospital purposes. Value of properties exempt from taxation in 1969 was \$2,586,690.00.

10. STREETS, SIDEWALKS

The town of Fort McMurray has a total of 12.02 miles paved streets; 2.7 of which constitute the main street, Franklin Avenue. There are 11.28 miles of gravelled streets and it is proposed to pave another 3 miles in 1970. There are 21 miles of sidewalks.

11. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Sewer connections total 1,030 residential, and 60 business, and total 14.94 miles. Sewage disposal is accomplished by a three cell lagoon operated by anaerobic action. There are 4.91 miles of storm sewers. Twenty miles of natural gas line are located within the town. There are 20 miles of underground wiring and 30 miles of overhead wiring.

12. ELECTRIC POWER

Power is generated by Canadian Utilities Ltd., and is available in all requirements for residential, commercial, and industrial loads.



Many churches serve the religious needs of the town and district.
A modern church now serves this congregation.

13. WATER

The town's water supply is from the Athabasca River, and is held in a 15 million gallon capacity reservoir. Fluoride and Chlorine are both added to the water supply.

14. GAS

Natural gas is distributed by Northland Utilities Ltd. and is available for all requirements.

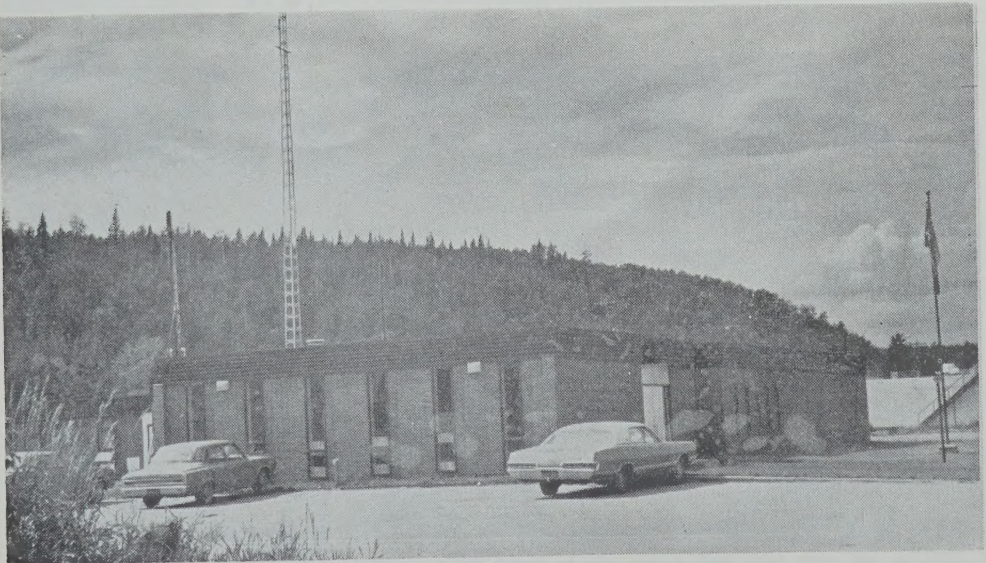
15. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

A library is housed in the same building as the town office, and contains almost 10,000 books. Two full time staff are employed and two part time. Fees are: adults \$2.00 per year; teens 75c per year; and children under 12, 50c per year.

Policing for the town is presently being done under contract by the R.C.M. Police. There are presently six members, and the town furnishes one stenographer and a night guard. Costs of policing are shared by federal, provincial and town governments; with over 50% of the cost being borne by the town.

16. HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES

The Fort McMurray General Hospital District No. 99 administrates a thirty-four bed modern hospital. Construction of a new wing, at a cost of \$196,613.11, which is presently near completion will bring the total number of beds to 54. Equipment and facilities are modern and adequate to suitably service 54 bed capacity. The staff consists of: Medical 3; administrative, 4; other staff, 48. In 1969 there were a total of 1,816 adult and children patients and 210 newborn patients. The average length of stay was five days.



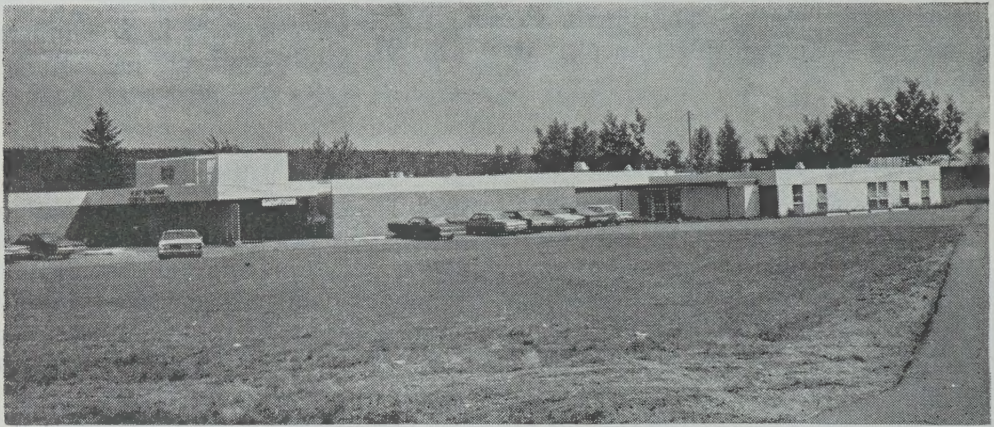
The Civic Centre is the administrative seat of the community.

In addition, there are two public health nurses, and 1 clerical staff serving Fort McMurray.

There is a Family Counselling Service with 20% of costs paid by the town and the balance by the provincial government. A counselling psychologist visits every two weeks and there are ten lay counsellors. The Preventive Social Services Director acts as supervisor of the Family Counselling.

17. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Historically, the main function of Fort McMurray was as a transfer centre between Edmonton and the settlements of the Northwest Territories which could be reached by water. Goods arrived by rail, and were transferred to barges for shipment north. Although some shipments are still made each summer in this manner, the bulk of the supplies for the north are now transported by road. It is approximately 1,700 miles from the railhead at Waterways to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic coast, and only one twenty mile portage in the entire distance. There is an estimated 2,700 miles of navigable water



A modern new hospital building (top) has replaced the original: both structures are in use.

to the north of Fort McMurray with the routes which branch out of the three principal lakes — Athabasca, Great Slave, and Great Bear.

In the spring of 1966, Highway 63 was opened as a gravelled highway with load restrictions, thus connecting by road Fort McMurray with Edmonton and southern points. The distance from Edmonton to Fort McMurray via Highways 28, 46, and 63, is approximately 274 miles. Of this distance, approximately 121 miles has been paved.

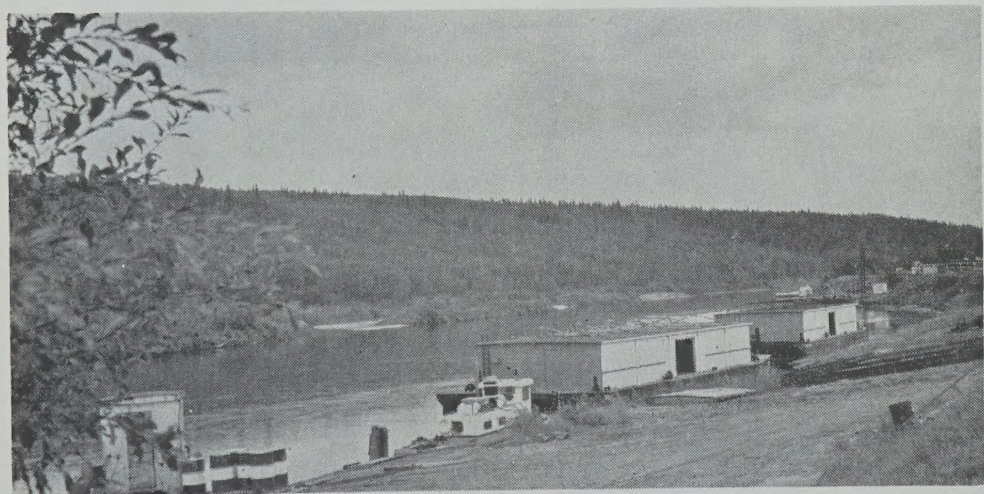
Until the road was constructed all travelling in and out of Fort McMurray was by train or by air. Until April of 1967 the Northern Alberta Railways operated two passenger trains per week; passengers are now transported by mixed trains. Greyhound Bus Lines (formerly Canadian Coachways) operate a daily bus service to and from Edmonton. Pacific Western Airlines have flights in and out of McMurray, each day of the week, except Tuesdays and Sundays.

**Water Freight Movements From Waterways, Alberta
1963 - 1969 (In tons)**

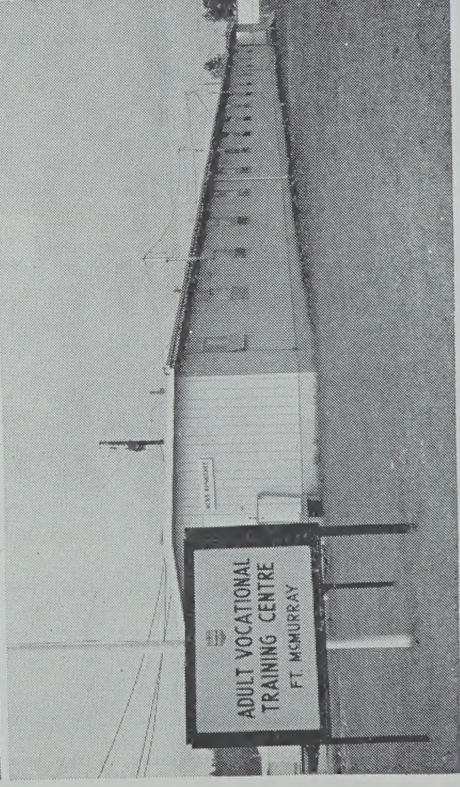
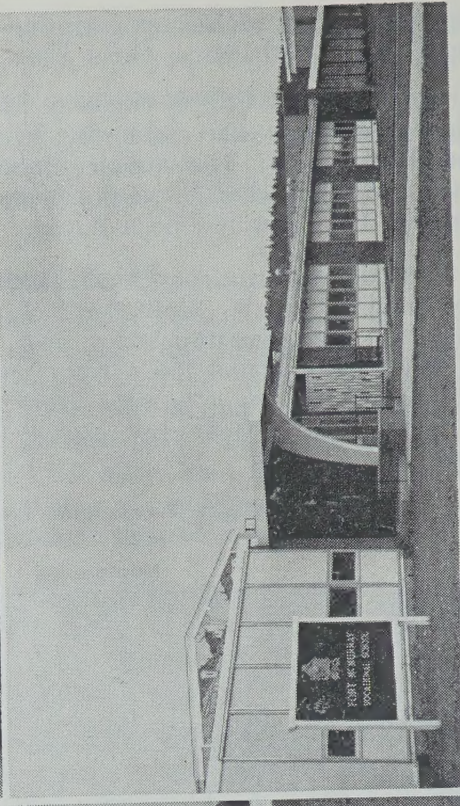
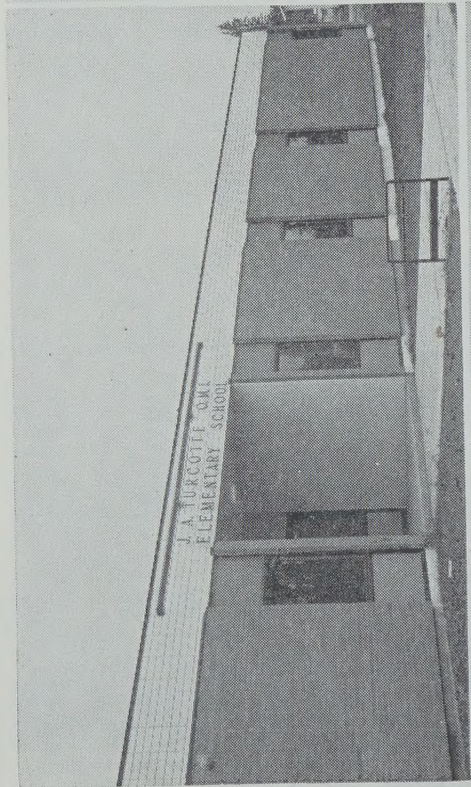
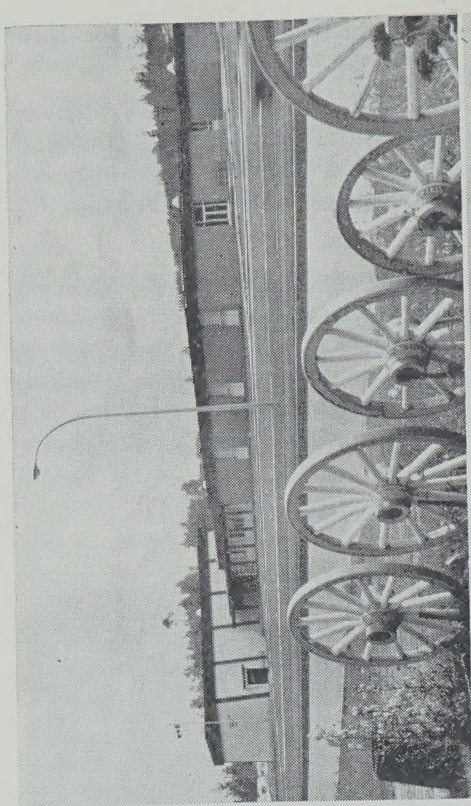
Year	Northbound	Southbound
1963	61,699	12,534
1964	60,748	8,185
1965	54,023	6,638
1966	43,280	9,161
1967	43,289	9,715
1968	51,615	11,585
1969	38,223	10,675

Pacific Western Airlines Transportation Figures. (Lbs. where applicable)

	Passengers	Mail	Express	Freight
1968 Orig.	9,822	27,866	12,611	88,422
1968 Dest.	9,354	41,275	40,062	54,716
1969 Orig.	7,425	25,634	7,818	74,656
1969 Dest.	7,201	56,762	51,810	35,048



Waterways, adjacent to Fort McMurray, is the home of the barge fleet that plies the northern waterways carrying freight.



Schools of the Public and Separate School Divisions, and those of the specialized training courses, are modern and well staffed and contribute much to the growing economy of the district.

18. COMMUNICATIONS

Fort McMurray has the service of a CBC repeater station, CBKF, bringing in the programming from the CBC station CBX in Edmonton, which has been in operation since August 30, 1968.

There is also T.V. service, another CBC facility, which is known as a frontier package. This is a video tape transmission from a local station, providing services from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. each day, one week later than that shown in Edmonton. This service has been in operation since January 25, 1970.

A newspaper also serves the town.

19. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto-Dominion Bank.

20. HOTELS

Oil Sands Hotel - 30 rooms, cafeteria, beverage room and lounge.

Peter Pond Hotel - 39 double rooms with bath and shower, dining room, banquet room, restaurant, liquor lounge and beverage room.

Riviera Motor Hotel - 30 double rooms with bath and showers, dining room, banquet room, and liquor lounge.

21. TRAILER PARKS

Park Plaza - 162 stalls; Ken's - 35 stalls.

22. EDUCATION

Fort McMurray has two school districts, Fort McMurray School District No. 2833, formerly under Northland School District, and the Fort McMurray Separate School District No. 32.



A modern, well equipped airport handles a large volume of air traffic.



The Great Canadian Oil Sands plant at Fort McMurray is a major contributor to the economy, employing many men. The two machines strip the overburden and excavate the oil soaked sands, and pass the material to the large extraction plant where the two are separated. The oil is then piped to Edmonton for refining and the sand is used to refill the excavation.



The Fort McMurray School District No. 2833 administers the Peter Pond High School and the Dr. K. A. Clark Elementary School. The Peter Pond High School has 24 classrooms, 24 teachers, and 459 students. Dr. K. A. Clark Elementary School has 16 classrooms in the main building and 6 portable units, with 26 teachers and 722 students. This building was completed and opened in 1968.

The Separate School District administers the St. John's School, with 12 classrooms, 13 teachers, and 200 students, grades 7 to 11. The J. A. Turcotte, O.M.I., Elementary School was completed in 1969 at an approximate cost of \$478,000. Plans are made to add four classrooms in 1970. There are presently 18 classrooms; 21 teachers, and 490 students in the elementary school.

The Alberta Vocational Centre was opened in 1965 at an initial cost of \$350,000. The facilities, with the exception of kitchen-diner and dormitory space, was tripled in size in the spring of 1969. Primary purpose of the Centre is to provide adults who are socially, economically, physically or educationally deprived with an adequate level of training to enable them to enter the labour force in an occupation of a service or semi-skilled nature.

Approximately fifty per cent of the trainees are sponsored by Canada Manpower. Other referral agencies include Alberta Newstart Inc., Dept. of Indian Affairs, Alberta Department of Social Development. Trainees are normally paid a nominal training allowance, and are offered lodgings, meals and laundry facilities. Approximately 225 students are normally enrolled with approximately 90 in evening courses. Total staff consists of 75, with 30 instructors.

23. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The town owns and operates an arena and a community centre which are on adjoining properties. The construction cost of the arena was \$125,000.00, and of the community centre, \$36,000.00. Yearly revenue of the arena is \$2,000.00; while costs run to \$10,000.00. Revenue of the community centre is



Water sports along the river parallel the golf course behind the background trees.

\$3,000.00, and costs are \$6,000.00. A curling rink, owned by the Oilsands Curling Club is located on nearby property.

Following is a list of some of the facilities available to residents of Fort McMurray:

Oilsands Curling Club	Public Library	Miskanaw Golf Club
Mistie-Sepee-Ski Club	Community Centre	Tennis Courts
Camp Nee Chee Wogen, Anzac, Alberta		

Fishing, boating, water-skiing, etc., can be enjoyed at Gregoire Lake or on the Clearwater and Athabasca Rivers.

There is a Centennial Park for recreation.

Following is a list of clubs and organizations in Fort McMurray:

Al-Anon	Army Cadets
All Saints Anglican Parish Guild	Fort McMurray Art Club
Baptist Youth Fellowship	Boy Scouts
Brownies	Candy Strippers
Catholic Women's League	Chamber of Commerce
Civil Service Association	Clearwater Boxing Club
Clearwater Ladies' Fastball League	Clearwater Light Horse and Rodeo Association
Cosmopolitan Club	Cubs
Elks	Fish & Game Association
Fort McMurray Badminton Club	Fort McMurray Basketball League
Fort McMurray Figure Skating Club	Fort McMurray Men's Fastball League
Fort McMurray Minor Baseball League	Fort McMurray Soccer League
Fort McMurray Senior Hockey League	Fort McMurray Sno-Trakkers
Fort McMurray Tennis Club	Fort McMurray Minor Hockey League
Girls' Club (Baptist Church)	Guide Association
Girl Guides	Indian-Eskimo Assoc. of Canada
Junior Forest Wardens	Junior High School Girls' Club (Baptist Church)
Kinette Club	Kinsmen Club
Knights of Columbus	Ladies' Order of the Royal Purple
Miskanaw Golf Club	Mistie-Sepee-Ski Club
Nistawoyou Association	Oilsands Curling Club
Open Stage Society	Overture Concert Society
People's Park (Youth Club)	Peter Pond High School Students' Union
Royal Canadian Legion	Skating
Saint Aidens Women's Auxiliary - Anglican	Swimming
Tar Island Ladies	Teen-Time (Youth Group)

24. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

A total of 110 business licenses are currently issued. The Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce represents its business members. There is also a Fort McMurray Retail Merchants Association which represents a section of the businesses. Businesses currently operating in Fort McMurray are as follows:

Accountant	1	Grocery Stores	4
Airlines	3	Hardware Stores	3
Appliances & Radio Stores	1	Hotels, Motels, Cabins	3
Auto Body Shop	1	Jewellery Stores	2
Bakery	1	Lawyers	2
Barber Shops	3	Lumber & Building Supplies	1
Beauty Parlors	6	Lumber Mill Operators	2
Building Contractors	2	Motor Vehicle Dealer	1
Clothing Store - Family	3	Newspaper	1
Clothing Store - Men's	2	Oilfield Equipment & Service	1
Car Rental Services	4	Insurance & Real Estate	6
Concrete Redi-Mix	1	Liquid Gas & Appliances	1
Dairy	1	Optometrists (visiting)	2
Dentist	1	Outboard Sales & Service	3
Doctors	3	Plumbing & Heating	2
Drive-In Restaurant	1	Refrigeration & Appliances	1
Drug Stores	2	Restaurants	4
Dying, Cleaning & Laundry	4	Rubber Products (incl. tires)	1
Electricians	2	Second Hand Store	1
Entertainment	1	Shoe Store	1
Florist	1	Sporting Goods Store	1
Fuel Oil Dealers	3	Stationery & Office Supplies	1
Furniture Store	1	Taxi Cab Companies	6
Garage & Filling Stations	6	Tobacco & News Stores	2
General Contractors	1	Welding Repair Shop	1
General Trucking Firms	3		



Recreation in winter and summer is provided at this recreation centre.

25. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited

Great Canadian Oil Sands Company was incorporated in 1953 for the purpose of extracting oil from the tar sands at Fort McMurray. The company acquired leases from Fitzsimmons Company and from the Abasand Oils Ltd., two companies that had been in existence for a good many years. The company obtained a permit in 1962 to produce 31,500 gallon barrels per day, which would increase to 45,000 barrels per day in 1964.

Bechtel Ltd. undertook construction of the G.C.O.S. plant, which was officially opened on September 30, 1967. For every two tons of sand, one barrel of oil is produced. A 16 in. pipeline to Edmonton is capable of moving a maximum of 54,000 barrels per day.

On the basis of 45,000 barrels per day granted under the permit, 250 tons of sulphur are produced. The company has approximately 600 employees engaged in the operation of the plant, and the maintenance contractor, Catalytic Construction, have a crew of approximately 400. Since 1968, Mannix Company Ltd. have had a sub-contract to remove overburden from the tar sands deposit and employ, on a seasonal basis, 50 to 100 men.

Natural gas was piped to the plant from a gas field near Lac La Biche in 1968, which at the same time gave the natural gas services to the town of Fort McMurray. Great Canadian Oil Company at the present time have an investment of over 300 million dollars in their oil plant at Fort McMurray.

The operation of the Great Canadian Oil Sands Company plant has been instrumental in the expansion of the town of Fort McMurray into a model community of over 6,000 population, with modern shopping centres, schools, paved streets, underground wiring, gas, etc. The town's ten-million dollar annual payroll is the envy of many other small business towns in Alberta.



An aerial view of the town of Fort McMurray, with the bridge leading to the GCOS plant.

Proposed Development of Tar Sands

In 1957 - 1958, Royalite of Canada began experimental work with the tar sands at Mildred Lake, until City Service Athabasca was formed in 1959, of a consortium of Imperial Oil Limited 30%; City Service Athabasca 30%; Atlantic Richfield Canada 30%; Gulf Canada Limited 10%.

The Pilot Plant operated at Mildred Lake until 1964, then moved to Edmonton. The name of the Company was changed to Syncrude on January 1, 1965.

The Oil and Gas Conservation Board recommended a permit to Syncrude for 80,000 barrels per day, which was approved on September 17, 1969. A great deal of preliminary work is required with major construction proposed in 1973, and completion on July 1, 1976 at an estimated cost of \$200 million. Canadian Utilities will build the power plant at a cost of \$100 million. This mining operation will have an estimated permanent staff of 700 - 800 employees, resulting in an increase in population of 13,000 to 14,000 at Fort McMurray.

Lumber Industry

Lumbering is a secondary industry at Fort McMurray. Swanson's Lumber Co. Ltd. bought out Primrose Forest Products September 9, 1969, and since then have greatly increased the capacity of their operation. They hold forestry leases for 30 M.B.F. of western white spruce, and have a sawmill capacity of 30 M.B.F. per year. Swanson's new modernized planer plant has a like capacity.

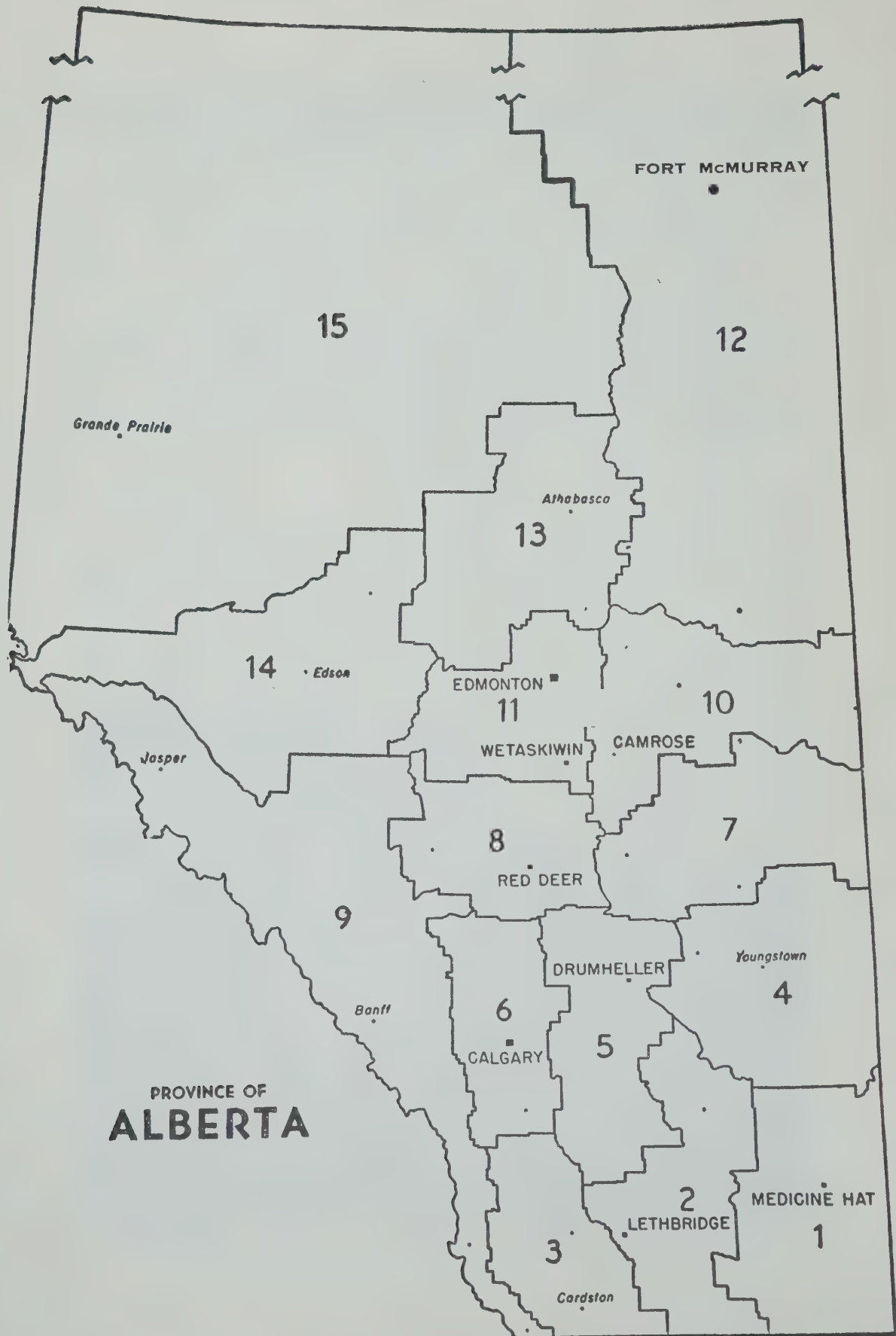


Forest products are a major contributor to the economy of the Fort McMurray district.

The dry kiln plant under construction has a capacity of 16 M.B.F. per year. The company will employ a staff of approximately 85, with 30 to 40 extra men for logging during the winter. The parent company is Kopper's Co., Incorporated, Pittsburgh, Pa.

26. POPULATION

Town Census Figures				
1955	-----	-----	926	Dominion Census
1956	-----	-----	1,103	
1961	-----	-----	1,181	
1964	-----	-----	1,303	5/64 Municipal Census
1965	-----	-----	2,515	1/65
1966	-----	-----	3,387	1/67
1967	-----	-----	4,948	9/67
1968	-----	-----	5,943	1/69
1969	-----	-----	6,132	1/70



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